

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 7-9, 12 and 15 are currently pending. Claims 7-9, 12 and 15 were rejected. Claims 7 and 12 have now been amended for clarity. No new matter has been entered.

Prosecution History

The previous Office Action of October 6, 2003 indicated that Claims 7 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Applicant subsequently amended Claims 7 and 12 into independent form. In the subsequent Office Action of March 25, 2004, amended Claims 7 and 12 were rejected on the basis of some previously cited prior art. To better understand the claim rejections, a telephonic interview was conducted with Examiner Harvey on April 28, 2004. Claims 7 and 12 have subsequently been amended to address the concerns expressed by the Examiner during the interview, as discussed in greater detail below.

Claim 7

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as the phrase "wherein maximum coefficient values range from 1 or less, $\frac{1}{2}$ or more, $\frac{1}{2}$ or less, $\frac{1}{4}$ or more, ... to 0 or more" was considered indefinite. Correspondence with the Applicant revealed that the above defined range was inaccurate due to translational errors. The correct range of coefficient values should be less than 1 but greater than or equal to $\frac{1}{2}$, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ but greater than or equal to $\frac{1}{4}$, less than $\frac{1}{4}$ but greater than or equal to $\frac{1}{8}$, ... to less than $\frac{1}{2^n}$ but greater than or equal to zero. Claim 7 has now been amended to define this range by means of equations, calling for maximum coefficient values that "are either equal to 0 or fall within a range that is less than $\frac{1}{2^x}$ but greater than or equal to $\frac{1}{2^{(x+1)}}$, where x is an integer ranging from 0 to n.

The Examiner also noted that the equation $n=2m-1$ did not yield correct results (i.e., n should be equal to 4 when m equals 3). In response, Claim 7 has been amended to indicate the relationship between variables n and m as being $n=2^{m-1}$.

Claim 12

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Darthenay. During the interview, the Examiner expressed the belief that the previous amending of Claim 12 to call for n number of multipliers sufficiently broadened the claim such that that it read upon the cited combination of prior art. The Examiner indicated that Claim 12 would overcome the prior art rejection if it was amended to specify a range for the number n . It was further indicated that defining the number n on the basis of m number of bits, such as done in Claim 7, would be sufficient to overcome the cited prior art. In response, Claim 12 has been amended to call for "n number of luminance levels predetermined from m number of upper bits of the input luminance signal, with n being equal to 2^{m-1} ."

The Examiner also expressed concern over the presence of the continuation symbol (i.e., dot, dot, dot) within the defined range of maximum coefficient values, asserting that it resulted in the range being overly broad. In response, Claim 12 has been amended so as to define the above range of maximum coefficient values by means of an equation. Specifically, Claim 12, as amended, now calls for "n number of coefficients having a value defined by $1/2^{n-x}$, where x is an integer ranging from 1 to n ".

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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